

# Longacre's Ledger

*The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society*

Volume 28.1, Issue #102

[www.fly-inclub.org](http://www.fly-inclub.org)

April 2018

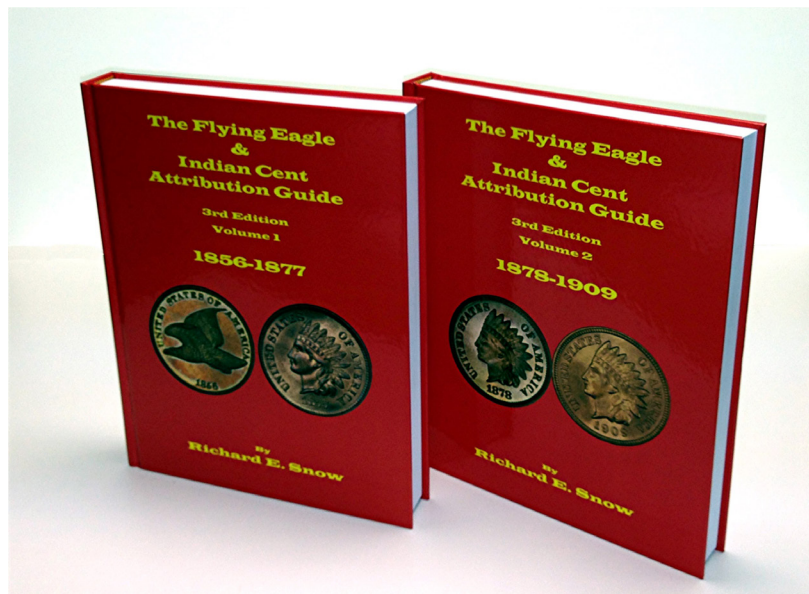


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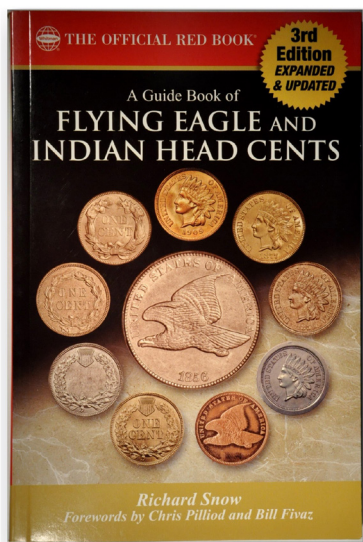
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# The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.

*Founded 1991*

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### On the cover...

The 1864 With L is one of the key dates in the Indian cent series. It has a unique history and there are many interesting varieties. This issue will detail all known information about this Indian cent.

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# Longacre's Ledger

2018 Vol. 28.1 Issue #102

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## Contents

### Featured Articles

<i>The 1864 With L Indian Cent</i> <i>By Richard Snow</i> .....	10
<i>Something New</i>	
<i>1858 SL Snow-7 Delisted</i>	
<i>1859 Shield Cent updated</i>	
<i>1860 T2 S8, 1880 S16, 1883 S19, S20,</i>	
<i>1884 S11, 1896 S30, S31, 1906 S66,</i>	
<i>1907 S68, 1908 S18, S19, S20.</i>	
<i>By Richard Snow</i> .....	37

<i>President's Letter</i> .....	5
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Special thanks to Charmy Harker  
for proofreading the articles.

## *The President's Letter*

*By Chris Pilliod*

I have often wondered about San Francisco and this Mint's role in the production of the cent. Why did it take from inception of the Mint's operations in 1854 until 1908 when the Granite Lady would strike her first cents? The cent was still a meaningful commodity to own in these years with a good amount of purchasing power, a nice lunch could be purchased for 7 or 8 cents.

And think about this – the New Orleans Mint never struck cents, and Denver would not strike cents until 1911. So as the West was being settled and experiencing a population boom, the ONLY circulating cents would have been made in Philadelphia. Large bank quantities of cents would be transported to the West Coast in a diminished fashion, with only relatively few cents circulating. I still remember as a kid growing up in Ohio in the 1960's how regional coinage could be. While wheat cents were still very common in circulation, what was not common were S-Mint Wheaties—those caught our eye. So unless intentionally transported, a diffusion of cents to the West Coast did not happen.

So why did it take 54 years for San Francisco to strike its first Indian Cent? What transpired socially, economically, financially in our nation for this to happen? I took a few minutes and poured through some on-line information to come up with the answer, and it surprised me. And the journey provided some fascinating insight into our nation's economy, social issues of the time as well as history.

In January 1848, gold was discovered at Sutter's Mill in California and by the following year, the gold mines were producing significant quantities of gold bullion. By 1849, the California gold rush brought a flood of people west for the chance to get rich. Aging miners from the dried-up beds of the North Carolina-Georgia Gold Rush of 1829 joined in. San Francisco, once a small town, was soon a thriving city. Over 100,000 people would migrate to the area as a result of the news of a gold discovery. Nearly 1000 houses a month were erected in 1850. A building lot in San Francisco worth \$16 in 1847, sold for \$45,000 just two years later.

However, there was an acute shortage of regular gold coins. Transporting the gold east all the way to the Philadelphia Mint was time-consuming and

fraught with risk. Miners were forced to tender nuggets or uncertain quantities of gold dust to satisfy purchases. Privately owned mints were being established to fill the void by manufacturing gold coins. Although not officially recognized as money, the Federal Government allowed

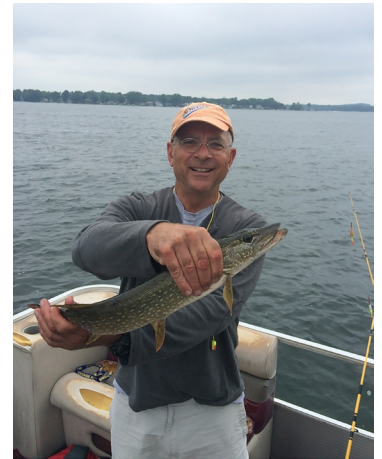
these private gold coins to circulate. President Millard Fillmore recommended a branch mint be built in California in his first message to Congress on December 2, 1850. In response, Congress passed the Act of July 3, 1852, authorizing the establishment of the San Francisco Mint to strike gold and silver coins. Construction of a branch mint in San Francisco commenced on April 3, 1854. The first coins struck were \$20.00 Gold Double Eagles. The following year silver coinage was minted as well.

By the end of that year, the San Francisco Mint produced \$4,084,207 in gold coins. The gold mines of the American River and outlying regions was unlike anything anyone had ever seen before. All told, over 10 million ounces of gold passed through this city in the 1850s. The San Francisco Mint, also known affectionately as The Granite Lady, was said to have held nearly one-third of the nation's gold reserves in its heyday.

By the end of the Gold Rush in 1855, more complicated methods for gathering the gold had been invented, and these methods included equipment for mining the gold from the surrounding underground rock formations. Staggering numbers of gold coins were struck at the San Francisco Mint until the last Eagle fell off the press in 1930.

The huge quantities of gold being redeemed for coinage was in itself enough of a burden to keep the Mint operating on overtime—who had time to worry about anything less than a dime?

To accommodate the huge quantities of gold and silver being deposited, a new larger and more modern Mint was constructed in 1870. This time, Mint officials were determined to construct facilities that would





### *San Francisco - May 5, 1906*

*This image shows the destruction surrounding the Mint after the earthquake and fire.  
Photo taken with a suspended airship.*

be large enough to keep pace with the growing commercial demands of the western states. The old San Francisco Mint ceased operation in 1874.

Right on the heels of the newly expanded Mint came legislation that would alter the face of American coinage. The Bland–Allison Act, also referred to as the “Grand Bland Plan of 1878,” was an act of United States Congress requiring the U.S. Treasury to buy a certain amount of silver and put it into circulation as silver dollars. Though the bill was vetoed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, Congress overrode Hayes’ veto on February 28, 1878, to enact the law.

Now in addition to the large quantities of the Gold Eagle family being minted as well as Seated silver coinage, now unheard of quantities of Morgan Silver Dollars were being minted at San Francisco. Finally after 1904, with the cessation of Silver Dollar production and the diminishing quantities of gold coinage, did the Mint have daylight to produce other coinage. And the timing could not have been better. In early 1906, San Francisco raised trolley rates from 5 cents to 6 cents and, as a result, the demand for pennies skyrocketed. Congress reacted quickly and on Act of



### *San Francisco Mint - May 5, 1906*

April 24, 1906, the San Francisco Mint finally receive permission to strike base metal coins at any mint—base metal being copper and nickel alloys. The appropriation was approved to \$200,000, but it would take two years before a cent was produced outside Philadelphia.

So the answer as to why it took so long for San Francisco to strike cents lays in the hands of trolley fares – who would have guessed?

Small quantities of cents were finally struck at the San Francisco Mint in 1908 and 1909. Because of the introduction of the Lincoln Cent in 1909; counter-intu-

itively, the mintage of 1909-S Indian cents is less than that of 1908.

Years ago, to add to my collecting interests, I began collecting 1908-S and 1909-S Indian Cents by reverse die, specifically mintmark position and re-punched mintmarks. It is a low priority project of mine but my goal is to determine how many reverse dies were employed to strike 1908-S and 1909-S Indian cents. The number of obverse dies used will be a much more difficult task since, sometime during the 1908 minting year, the date was placed into the working hub and no longer required manual punching into the die. So the date position and depth does not change between obverse dies. However, the mintmark was punched into dies well into the 1980's or early 1990's. As such, each mintmark will be located slightly differently or, in the case of 1908-S Indian cents, will exhibit a slightly repunched mint mark. I am sharing



*1908-S RPM #3*

photographically three 1908-S reverse mint marks, all showing slightly different repunching. The repunching is very slight and you must look closely, but it is discernable.



*1908-S RPM #1*



*1908-S RPM #2*



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Dan T	Colorado	none	Marc D	Ohio	ANA
John T	Minnesota	website	Kenneth O	Ohio	Karin
David D	Texas	James Lesho	Warren D	California	Rick Snow
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Thank you for joining us. If you haven't already done so, please check out our web site and online talk forum at [www.fly-inclub.org](http://www.fly-inclub.org). If you have any questions or comments about the club, please contact me, Vern Sebby at PO Box 559, Sandwich, Illinois, 60548, or email, [melva6906@indianvalley.com](mailto:melva6906@indianvalley.com).



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The back issues of the Longacre's Ledger are now accessible on the Newman Numismatic Portal. The site is managed by the Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Access is free to all and the files can be viewed at the following link:

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/521577>






Special thanks to Len Augsburger for working on this.

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*The 1864 With L Indian Cents*  
*By Richard Snow*



*1864 With L design by James Longacre*

**The great nickel war**

As the Civil War was entering its final faze of destruction and death in Georgia and Virginia, a battle over the composition of the cent was being fought in the halls of Washington D.C. between two Pennsylvanians - a nickel magnate and the Director of the Mint.

In 1863 and 1864 the Northern cities saw the nickel cent being hoarded and removed from circulation while cheap private copper tokens circulated in their place. James Pollock, the Director of the Mint, saw this and pressured Congress to make the tokens illegal and replace the nickel cent with its own token coinage.

In 1864 Joseph Wharton was the new owner of nickel mines in Lancaster, PA and had just built a nickel refinery in Camden, New Jersey. His business depended on the Mint using nickel in its coinage. The proposal to change the cent to bronze was going to have a deeply negative effect on his business.

Wharton jumped into action pressuring his friends in Congress to keep the cent's composition at 88% copper and 12% nickel. He pressed his case with a pamphlet hurriedly printed and distributed to Congress on April 15, 1864. Meanwhile, the bill to change the composition of the cent to bronze was already in its final stages of passage. It had been sitting in the Senate and was being held up by Wharton's supporters



***Old design 1860-1864 - "No L"***

so he could mount a final counter-attack to kill the bill.

In the end Wharton was too late. On April 22, the bill came out of the Senate and was sent to President Lincoln for his signature. The cent would be changed from a 72-grain copper-nickel alloy to a thin 42-grain bronze (95% copper, 5% tin and zinc) alloy. A two-cent coin at double the weight was also adopted.

After the passage of the Mint Act of April 22, 1864, Mint Director Pollock sent a memorandum to Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase saying that a new design was not necessary and that it would only add confusion. The "Nicks," as they were called, would gradually be withdrawn from circulation.

By May 13th the first bronze ingots were made and new bronze coins were being struck by May 20th when the first shipment was delivered. Within a few weeks, the Mint decided to purchase ready made planchets from the firm of Holmes, Booth and Hayden of Waterbury, Connecticut.

This was an auspicious moment in the history of the United States coinage. It was the first token coinage from this country. The metal value was so far below the face value that it was deemed necessary to legislate a legal tender value of 10 cents to the coins. This is the first time this was granted for the cent. Prior to this change coins were produced with a metal



***New design - Pointed Bust***



***New design - L on Ribbon***

value close to the face value so that they would be assured acceptance by a sceptical public. The Legal Tender provision was an unnecessary step that would eventually prevent the coins from circulating efficiently. By codifying the maximum value the coins could be used, Congress prevented larger quantities from being used.

Eventually, the new coins would stay in circulation. The hoarding would stop and the private tokens would no longer circulate. The last holders of those would lose their spending power. They would only have value to coin collectors in the future.

## The “With L” design is made

Although Pollock had believed that a change in design was neither needed nor desired, the Mint engraver, James Longacre set about redesigning the obverse anyway. In 1860, his design for the Indian head had been changed from a sharply detailed pointed bust to a bolder but less fine design. Here was his chance to fix the problem.

We do not have any notes or letters stating exactly when the redesign took place, but it seems plausible that it was done at about the same time as the change from copper-nickel to bronze.

The new design is a sharper rendition of the Liberty Head. She is wearing an Indian headdress stylized from those worn by the Chippewa tribe of the Lake Superior region. It reintroduced the pointed bust and added a tiny “L” (for Longacre) tucked on the ribbon under the last feather. Signing one’s work in this way would eventually be accepted practice, but in 1864 it was unusual.

As far as we know, the introduction of the “With L” dies was not a noteworthy event to the Mint, just new, sharpened dies being installed. The old dies remaining after the switch to bronze were still used until they broke or otherwise became unusable.

Today we properly call the old design the “No L” design and the new design “With L.” We assume that they are both bronze, but sometimes the “No L” is just called “Bronze” as a shorthand to differentiate it from the “Copper-nickel” which also used the “No L” dies. The “With L” design was used for the remainder of the series, until 1909, with a slight modification in 1886. A beginner collector usually thinks that they must see an 1864 With L to see the tiny “L” on the ribbon, but it is indeed on all examples after 1864. Pick a date, it’s a “With L.” We only have to denote a difference in 1864 because we have both a “No L” design and a “With L” design in use that year.

The introduction of new dies during a transition from copper-nickel to bronze created some rarities in the Indian cent series. Two dies were prepared for striking proof examples. The purpose was not to supply collectors with special coins, but for internal use to test the dies. Examples were made in bronze (10 known), copper (3 known), and copper-nickel (4 known). The bronze examples are now collected as the rarest regular issue proofs of the series. These coins were held by the Mint and distributed to interested employees. The estate of James Longacre had many of these when sold in 1870.



*1863 With L on Ribbon - Bronze*



*1864 With L on Ribbon - Nickel*



*1864 With L Proof  
Aluminum restrrike  
Die file mark on neck*



*1864 With L Proof  
Aluminum restrrike  
Die polish marks on reverse*

### **“With L” Proofs and Patterns**

Students of patterns know of a listing for an 1863 With L pattern. These are highly desired by collectors and are very expensive when available. It is interesting to note that in the 1868-1870 period numerous proof coins were struck and restruck for sale to collectors with close ties to Mint Director Henry R. Linderman.

The “Linderman” restriking period is a fascinating period of the Mint’s history. For the 1864

With L story it has great importance. In or about 1869, earlier dated proof coins that were not on-hand for sale to collectors were restruck, sometimes in unusual metals and sometimes with odd die pairings. The 1863 “With L” is one of these oddities. Apparently, at the request for a proof set from 1863, no original dies were available to strike new cents. No problem, just make new ones. The design used in 1863 was not exactly the same as the design in use in 1869, but this may or may not have been noticed. New dies with the “With L” design were made and dated 1863 and a few



### ***1864 With L on Ribbon Circulation Strike, Copper-Nickel***

examples were struck in various metals. Today they exist in copper-nickel (7 known), bronze (5 known) and aluminum (3 known).

It is curious that aluminum pieces were struck. Aluminum was not used in any appreciable quantity at the Mint until 1868. It was not practical for coinage of cents as it was worth a bit more than gold at the time. It was a curiosity for both the Mint and the collectors to whom they were selling the patterns.

At the same time, proof sets for 1864 were also restruck. The dies for 1864 were also not available, so a new one was made. This obverse is distinctive for the heavy die file mark on the neck. From this striking period we find examples struck in bronze (12 known), nickel (1 known) and aluminum (2 known).

We can date these coins to the 1868 to 1870 period because the reverse die has distinctive die polish lines and is found in its earliest die state on coins dated 1868. This same reverse is found on the 1863 With L pieces.

### **The 1864 With L Copper-Nickel cent**

Beyond these rare proof issues, we find a few examples of the circulation 1864 With L struck in copper nickel. These were first discovered in 2003. The story behind the copper-nickel 1864 With L is fascinating as is the problem grading services have had with dealing with them.

# 8884 Precious Metals			
NAV Tools			
Time 8.8 sec			
Gold Not Present			
Ele	%	$\pm 2\sigma$	
nd < 0.03			
Ag	0.110	0.048	
Cu	88.66	0.42	
Ni	10.97	0.30	
Co	0.065	0.028	
Fe	0.084	0.033	

### ***1864 With L Circulation strike Copper-Nickel***

#### ***X-Ray Diffraction test results***

Initially, an example was found long ago and was graded as a pattern, J-359 by NGC. It was not struck with the proof dies, but was a circulation strike. It is lightly cleaned and denoted as such on the holder. Then, in 2003, Dana Horowitz found a corroded example with XF details. This find sparked interest that these were not patterns at all, but a regular issue.

In 2013, Brian Raines cherry-picked another copper-nickel 1864 With L. It was in a PCGS VF35 holder attributed as just a "1864 CN." Upon sending it back for an attribution, PCGS could not identify it as to what it actually was. Recently, another example

showed up, this time cherry-picked in a XF45 NGC holder, again labeled only “1864 CN.” It was subsequently graded by PCGS as 1864 “With L on Ribbon” without denoting the copper-nickel alloy. It remains graded XF45. There are now four known and none of them are from the proof dies.

The previously known examples have been reported earlier in *Longacre's Ledger* - See *Longacre's Ledger* Vol. 23.1 #87 April 2013, page 21: “The 1864 With L Copper-nickel Story” by Brian Raines. In the August 2013 an update was presented confirming the existence of three (now four) examples.

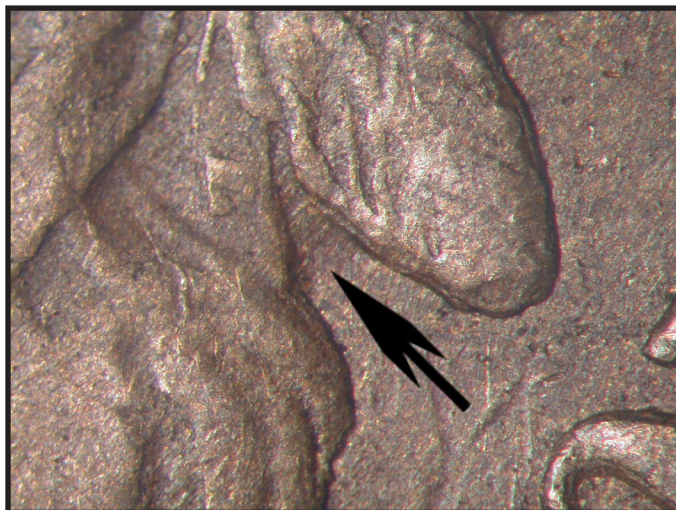
The date position is similar to all four known examples. The left side of the 1 digit is directly under the tip of the bust point. The XF45 and VF35 examples are both confirmed to be from the same dies. It would be of interest to confirm that all these circulation copper-nickel pieces are from the same dies. The die marker for the obverse, in addition to the date position, is a series of small die file marks in the field area under the last feather, by the ribbon. The reverse has die file marks off the right wreath at 2:00.

It is quite possible that the “With L” dies were ready before the passage of the Mint Act of April 22, 1864 and that at least one die was used to strike regular issue coins with the copper-nickel planchets. If four examples are known today, perhaps as many as a few hundred were struck altogether.

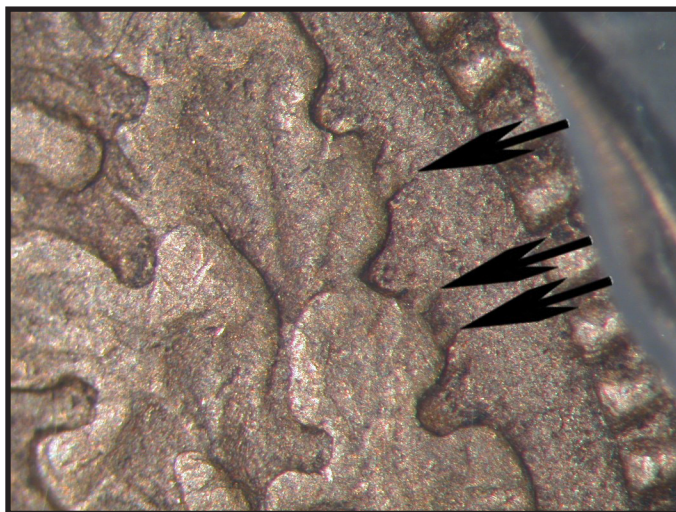
Keep in mind that a thick copper-nickel planchet may have been unable to be used in a press with settings set for the thinner bronze planchets. If the die spacing and planchet feeder are spaced to the thinner bronze planchets, a jammed press or a broadstruck coin might result. A wrong planchet strike is possible, but when numerous examples are known it is less probably an error.

### **Mintage figures for the 1864 With L**

Because no special order or count was made of the “With L” dies or their production numbers, we have to take the total numbers produced and work backwards to get an estimated mintage. The total is given as 52,973,714 in most references, but research by R.W. Julian has the total at 51,795,000. From that we subtract the mintage of the copper-nickel pices, which is reported as 13,740,000. Therefore the bronze mintage is 38,055,000. This is both 1864 No L and 1864 With L.



***1864 With L CN  
Die marks under last feather***



***1864 With L CN  
Die marks by wreath at 2:00***



***1864 With L CN Date area***

The meltage and general loss over 150 years makes determining the actual mintage breakdown very difficult. The 1864 With L was not saved specifically by the public as anything special. We see in the marketplace about 1-in-10 of all bronze 1864's are the With L design. From this we can estimate that there the initial mintage was 1/10 of the total of the bronze issue. This would set the estimated mintage for the 1864 With L at 3,300,000.

### **Collecting the 1864 With L cent**

Early on, the regular circulation strike 1864 With L in bronze was not valuable enough to be given special notice in coin dealers' premium lists and auctions unless they were the proof issues. The Longacre Estate sale in 1870 had some proof 1864 With L pieces that were listed as "Thin die" as opposed to that were labeled "Thick die", but otherwise the design differences went unnoticed for general collectors. The earliest I see for any special notice being given to the circulation issues was in the 1930's when coin boards began to be sold to collectors. They featured a hole with a "1864-L" label, which must have been very confusing, since there was no mint that struck coins with an "L" mint mark. Where exactly was this L? This confusion and the difficult search for one created a sort of special reverence for the coin.

On low grade examples, where the tiny "L" is just an indistinct blob, the easiest way to tell a "With L" from a "No L" is to look at the bust point. The narrow bust of the 1864 With L is easy to see when compared to any earlier date from 1860 to 1864.

The 1864 With L is a scarce date as the estimated 3+ million mintage would lead you to believe. In lower grades, like Good, Very Good and Fine, it is valued in the \$50 to \$150 range. Good should have full rims, Very Good should have detail in the feathers and a few letters of LIBERTY visible. Fine should have at least the tops of all letters of LIBERTY showing.

Many example are corroded or have problems at these grade levels and a heavy deduction should be made for these problems. If a problem-free chocolate brown Very Good is worth \$75, then a dark corroded one is worth perhaps \$30. This same percentage discount for problems carries over to other grade as well. You must make that value decision when buying. Are you buying for price or buying for quality?

Most collectors building a quality circulated set will want Very Fine to Almost Uncirculated coins for their sets. These can get very pricey if they are problem-free. Expect to pay about \$200 for a Very Fine (VF), \$300 for an Extremely Fine (EF or XF) and \$400 to \$500 for an Almost Uncirculated (AU) coin. Look for well struck coins with a chocolate brown color and few marks. You can get cheaper examples, but you will sacrifice a bit on quality.

Overgrading is a problem when searching for an example in VF to AU. A VF should have the lower edge of the ribbon with LIBERTY showing. An XF should have the lower hair curl and ribbon separated. I think an XF45 (Choice XF) should have full diamonds, but sometimes that is too much to ask.

As most examples now-a-days are certified, you will usually have to buy a certified coin for these grades to get a nice coin. Breaking a coin out of the certified holder to put in your bookshelf album is a perfectly fine thing to do, but make sure you keep the insert and make sure you like the coin. Certification is meant to help you avoid buying cleaned and overgraded coins, but there are many coins that are certified in XF and AU, for example, that are overgraded. If you buy these, pay for the coin, not the label on the holder.

In Mint State grades, the prices get very high. If you are looking at building a super high end circulation-grade set with many coins being full diamond and chocolate brown, you may have to look at certified holders graded MS62BN or MS63BN. The grading services are now grading top quality lightly circulated coins as mint state (MS). There are true MS coins in these holders, but if you are buying the coin, not the holder, these grades are where the true AU58BN coins are now resting. Expect to pay \$500 to \$600 for these.

The high grade red-brown (RB) coins, MS-64RB (Choice Unc) to MS65RB (Gem Unc), are in high demand and should be bought in top-tier certified holders and not removed from these holders. A CAC or Eagle Eye Photo Seal is a assurance to get to be sure you have a properly graded coin. These coins are priced from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Full red (RD) examples are very rare. However, many of the examples certified were generously given their grade. Coins that are RB that are in RD holders usually got that way by overgrading, not any color change while in the holder. The exception would be for enhanced coins that made it through the grading process and were not noticed as being enhanced.

These examples are usually found to go cheap in auctions. Again, as I stated earlier, you will have to determine if you are a price purchaser or a quality purchaser. The best collections are always built by collectors who put quality over price.

My own observation, after 25+ years of Photo Sealing full red certified coins, is that the coins that stayed red and original for the 150 years prior to encapsulated certification will stay full red even longer in their certified holder.

Prices for full red coins do not fall into an easy set of pricing due to the quality differences seen. That said, Properly graded MS64RD's (Choice Unc) should be around \$3,000, MS65RD's (Gem Unc) should be \$5,000 to \$7,500 and MS66RD's can go for \$30,000 or more - way more. There are no examples that are certified by PCGS as a MS66+RD or MS67RD. If one does qualify to be certified that high, it would likely be a \$100,000+ coin.

#### **Varieties of the 1864 With L cents.**

The 1864 With L is one of the dates more richly filled with interesting repunched dates. There are no doubled dies or misplaced digit varieties known, so repunched dates are all we see. These are cataloged in the *Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide, 3rd Ed.*, by their "Snow" number. The following list updates that reference and gives a bit more in terms of valuations and rarity. When listing this date, it is

necessary to include the shorthand 1864-L before the Snow number. This differentiates it from the 1864 CN and 1864 No L dates.

The CONECA numbering system for repunched dates (RPD) is included. I am the Flying Eagle and Indian cent attributor for that organization. The Cherrypicker's Guide (FS) number is also included. I am the specialist in charge of recommending what varieties should be listed there. The Top 100 varieties in the Flying Eagle and Indian cent series are now listed in the Cherrypicker's Guide, 6th Ed.

PCGS will label the top 100 varieties as listed in the Cherrypicker's guide. NGC does so as well, but also uses an ad-hoc system they call VP which is totally useless. ANACS will list all varieties.

One of the top collections of 1864 With L Indian cents was the Larry Steve collection. Larry is the co-founder of the Fly-In Club. The sale was held in July 2003 by American Numismatic Rarities, LLC (ANR). This was the first sale of the new firm formed by Dave Bowers after Collector's Universe sold Bowers and Merena. The part of Larry's collection included in this sale was all of his 1864 With L's and selected highlights of each year.



***Choice VF, Not quite Extremely Fine (VF30)***  
***Note the joining of the lower hair curl and the ribbon***



***Typical XF. Just makes Extremely Fine (XF40)***  
***Note the lower hair curl and ribbon are separated***

**1864-L Snow-1 1864/1864 (se)  
RPD-001, FS-2301, PCGS-37408,9,10**



**1864-L Snow-1: Obv. 4**



**1864-L Snow-1: Rev. U**

The repunching is very bold and is one of the best of the date. It is similar to Snow-2, but a quick comparison of the date position in relation to the bust point will show the differences. This date is placed low and far to the right of the bust point. The position of the left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Centered (C).

There is a small die scratch to the left of the date which should also be a diagnostic.

This is a scarce variety and it should get a decent premium. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,000. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$700 to \$1,000 and XF should be \$500 to \$700 and lower grades should be twice the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-1: Obv. 4, RPD-001**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS65RD PCGS Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 1/03:169; EERC (2004)
  - 2) MS65RB PCGS. Larry Steve; EERC (2006); Dr. Tom Fore; EERC (2008)
  - 3) MS65RB PCGS. EERC (2006)
  - 4) MS64RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts. EERC (2010)
  - 5) MS64RB PCGS. Pop report
  - 6) MS64RB PCGS. Pop report
  - 7) MS64BN NGC. Pop report.
  - 8) MS64BN NGC. Pop report.
- est. 9-18 MS63  
est. 18-30 MS60-62  
est. 31-50 AU  
est. 51-75 XF  
est. 76-100 F-VF  
est. 101-200 G-VG

**1864-L Snow-2 1864/1864 (s)  
RPD-002, FS-2305, PCGS-37405,6,7**



**1864-L Snow-2b: Obv. 6**



**1864-L Snow-2b: Rev. V**

The repunching is very bold but lighter than seen on S1. The date is very close to the bust point. There is a date position mark in the denticles to the right of the date. The position of the left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Edge (LE).

There are two reverse dies known. These are listed as S2a and S2b. There is no additional premium for either reverse.

This is a scarce variety and it should get a decent premium, similar to S1. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,000. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$700 to \$1,000 and XF should be \$500 to \$700 and lower grades should be twice the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-2: Obv. 6, RPD-002**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS65RB PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR 7/03:172
  - 2) MS65BN NGC. Pop report.
  - 3) MS64RD PCGS. EEPS
  - 4) MS64RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts.
  - 5) MS64RB PCGS. EERC (2013)
  - 6) MS63RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts. EERC (2011)
  - 7) MS63RB PCGS. EERC (2010)
- est. 8-15 MS63  
est. 16-20 MS60-62  
est. 21-30 AU  
est. 31-45 XF  
est. 46-60 F-VF  
est. 61-80 G-VG



**1864-L Snow-2a: Rev. AU**

**1864-L Snow-3 1864/1864 (n), 1/1 (s)  
RPD-003, FS-2302, PCGS-37411,12,13**



**1864-L Snow-3: Obv. 7**



**1864-L Snow-3: Rev. W**

The repunching is bold and similar to S4 and S5. The date is very close to the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Centered (C).

This is a fairly common variety and it should get a small premium. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. MS63RB should be \$700 to \$1,000. AU should be \$500 to \$700 and XF should be \$400 to \$500 and lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-3: Obv. 7, RPD-003**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS66RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts.
  - 2) MS65RB PCGS. EEPS
  - 3) MS65RB NGC. Pop report.
  - 4) MS65BN PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts
  - 5) MS65BN NGC. EERC (2012)
  - 6) MS64RD PCGS. Pop report.
  - 7) MS64RB PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR 7/03: 173
- est. 8-10 MS64RB  
est. 11-13 MS64BN  
est. 14- 30 MS63  
est. 31-50 MS60-62  
est. 51-75 AU  
est. 76-100 XF  
est. 101-130 F-VF

**1864-L Snow-4 1864/1864 (n), 18/18 (s)  
RPD-004, FS-2303, PCGS-37414,15,16**



**1864-L Snow-4: Obv. 8**



**1864-L Snow-4: Rev. X**

The repunching is bold and similar to S3 and S5. The date is well to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Edge (LE).

This is a fairly scarce variety and it should get a good premium. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,000. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$700 to \$1,000 and XF should be \$500 to \$700 and lower grades should be a premium over twice the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-4: Obv. 8, RPD-004**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS66RB PCGS. EEPS
  - 2) MS65RB NGC. Pop report.
  - 3) MS65+RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts
  - 4) MS65RB PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts
  - 5) MS64RB PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:174.
  - 6) MS63RB PCGS. Pop report.
  - 7) MS62BN PCGS.
- est. 8-15 MS60-62  
est. 16-20 AU  
est. 21-25 XF  
est. 26-35 F-VF  
est. 36-50 G-VG

**1864-L Snow-5 1864/1864 (n), 18/18 (s)  
RPD-004, FS-2307, PCGS-37402,3,4**



**1864-L Snow-5a: Obv. 9**



**1864-L Snow-5a: Rev. Y**

The repunching is bold on the flag of the 1 and top of the 8. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Edge (LE).

This is a fairly common variety and should not get too much of a premium on the top MS grades. For a coin like the MS66RD, it might be a detriment to have the variety added to the holder. A registry set collector may need the non-variety attribution to qualify for the spot in the registry. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500.

MS63RB should be \$600 to \$1,000. AU should be \$400 to \$600 and XF should be \$300 to \$500 and lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-5a: Obv. 9, RPD-005**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS66RD PCGS. CoinFacts
  - 2) MS66RB PCGS CoinFacts
  - 3) MS65RB PCGS. EERC (2011)
  - 4) MS65RB PCGS. EEPS
  - 5) MS64RD PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts
  - 6) MS64RB PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 175.
- est. 7-10 MS64RB  
est 11-20 MS63  
est. 21-35 MS60-62  
est. 35-55 AU  
est. 56-80 XF  
est. 81-100 F-VF  
est. 101-150 G-VG



**1864-L Snow-5b: Rev. Z**

## 1864-L Snow-6 1864/1864 (n), RPD-006



1864-L Snow-6: Obv. 10



1864-L Snow-6: Rev. AA

The repunching is bold on the base of the 1 and is similar to S4. There is no repunching on the flag of the 1. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Half (LH).

This is a very scarce variety but as it is not listed in the Top 100 list, it may not get the good premium it deserves. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,500. MS63RB should be \$1,200 to \$2,000. AU should be \$800 to \$1,500 and XF should be \$600 to \$1,000. Lower grades should be a double or maybe even a triple premium over the value of a regular coin.



1864-L Snow-6: Obv. 10, RPD-006

### Condition Census

- 1) MS64RB PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:176
  - 2) AU53 PCGS. PCGS CoinFacts.
  - 3) AU50. EERC (2010)
- est. 4-6 XF  
est. 7-12 F-VF  
est. 13-20 G-VG

### 1864-L Snow-7 Presently no variety

The initial listing was found to be a later die state of S1

## 1864-L Snow-8 1864/1864 (n), RPD-008



1864-L Snow-8: Obv. 11



1864-L Snow-8: Rev. AC

The repunching is fairly minor. There is a possible misplaced digit under the 1 in the denticles. The date is very high and far to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Half (LH).

This is a very scarce variety but as it is not listed in the Top 100 list, it may not get the good premium it deserves. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,500, if one is found. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$600 to \$900 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a double or maybe even a triple premium over the value of a regular coin.



1864-L Snow-8: Obv. 11, RPD-008

### Condition Census

- 1) MS66RB PCGS. Rich Ulrich; EERC (2018)
- 2) MS64RD PCGS. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:177.
- 3) MS64+BN PCGS. Late Die State. PCGS CoinFacts.
- 4) MS63BN.  
est. 5-7 XF-MS62  
est. 8-12 F-VF  
est. 13-20 G-VG



1864-L Snow-8: Late Die State.

### 1864-L Snow-9 Presently no variety

The initial listing was found to be a later die state of S8

# **WANTED**

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the cent's composition to bronze in 1864. The cents were subsequently held in the hands of everyone who lived in America from the Civil War era, though the Old West and into the early 20th Century.

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\_\_\_\_\_ I enjoy Patterns, Proofs or Errors



**1864-L Snow-10 864/864 (sw),  
RPD-009, FS-2306, PCGS-37417,18,19**



**1864-L Snow-10a: Obv. 13**



**1864-L Snow-10a: Rev. AP**

The repunching is somewhat dramatic. There is repunching in both loops of the 8, the lower loop of the 6 and slightly under the horizontal bar of the 4. The 1 is directly under the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Right Edge (LH). There are two reverse dies. The S10a reverse (Rev. AP) has radial die cracks from the denticles to the wreath at 2:00 and 8:30. The S10b reverse (Rev. AE) has heavy die clash marks. Later die states show a die crack from the rim at 4:30 through the lowest arrow head to the ribbon at 6:00. The reverse dies are not collected as separate varieties.

This is a fairly available variety. It should get a premium from only a slight amount up to double the value of the normal coin. The exception would be in MS65 grades, where the value for the coin is very high already. The MS65+RD (featured at the beginning of this article and on the cover) is priced only for the grade. The repunching is merely a “freebie.” Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,000. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$500 to \$1,000 and XF should be \$300 to \$500. Lower grades should be double premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-10a: Obv. 13, RPD-009**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS65+RD PCGS. EERC (2007); “Chiro” collection; EERC (2009); “Westmoreland County” collection; Heritage 9/10:3145.
- 2) MS65RB NGC. Larry Steve; ANR “Classics” 7/03:178
- 3) MS64RB PCGS. (PS). EERC (2007)
- 4) MS64RB PCGS. Pop report.
- 5) MS64BN ANACS. EERC (2006)  
est. 5-10 MS60-63  
est. 11-20 AU  
est. 21-30 XF  
est 31-50 F-VF  
est. 51-100 G-VG

**1864-L Snow-11 86/86 (n), RPD-010.**



**1864-L Snow-11: Obv. 14**



**1864-L Snow-11: Rev. AF**

There is repunching in the lower loops of the 86. A raised area between the 8 & 6 shows some touch-up work on the die. This is presently scarce, but more may turn up as the repunching gets more notice. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Centered (C).

This is a very scarce variety but as it is not listed in the Top 100 list, it may not get the good premium it deserves. Prices for a MS65RB should be \$2,500 to \$3,500. MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,500. MS63RB should be \$1,200 to \$2,000. AU should be \$800 to \$1,500 and XF should be \$600 to \$1,000. Lower grades should be a double or maybe even a triple premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-11: Obv. 14, RPD-010**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS65RB ANACS. Larry Steve; EERC (2009); Gary Levin; EERC (2018)
- 2) MS65RB NGC. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:179.  
est. 3-6 MS60-64  
est. 6-10 AU  
est. 11-15 XF  
est 16-22 F-VF  
est. 23-30 G-VG

## 1864-L Snow-12 4/4 (n), 4/4 (n), RPD-011.



1864-L Snow-12: Obv. 15



1864-L Snow-12: Rev. AG

The repunching is only on the 4, but multiple times. There is heavy die work between the 8, 6 and 4 which translates to a large raised area on the coin. The reverse is rotated slightly on all examples seen, although this sampling is only three pieces. The 1 is slightly to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Between (B).

Very few examples are reported, but many more may be sitting around, as it is not a very dramatic variety, except for the raised mound under the date.

The premium should be moderate, unless it proves to be rare. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,200 to \$1,500. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,100. AU should be \$500 to \$800 and XF should be \$300 to \$500. Lower grades should be a slight to double premium over the value of a regular coin.



1864-L Snow-12: Obv. 15, RPD-011

### Condition Census

- 1) MS65+RB PCGS. EERC (2018)
  - 2) MS64RB PCGS. Larry Steve. ANR "Classics" 7/03:180  
Chuck Hill; EERC (2015)
  - 4) MS64BN PCGS. EERC
- est. 5-6 MS60-63  
est. 7-9 AU  
est. 10-13 XF  
est. 14-20 F-VF  
est. 21-30 G-VG

## 1864-L Snow-13 Presently no variety

The initial listing was found to be S10b

**1864-L Snow-14 64/64 (n), RPD-012.**



**1864-L Snow-14: Obv. 16**



**1864-L Snow-14: Rev. AI**

The repunching is very minor and only on the 6 with a hint of repunching on the 4. The 1 is far to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Between (B).

Very few examples are reported, but this may not translate to a large premium.

The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,100 to \$1,350. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,100. AU should be \$600 to \$800 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-12: Obv. 16, RPD-012**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS64RB NGC. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:181
  - 2) MS64BN PCGS. EERC
  - 3) MS63BN NGC. EERC
- est. 4-5 MS60-63  
est. 6-8 AU  
est. 9-10 XF  
est. 11-14 F-VF  
est. 15-25 G-VG

## 1864-L Snow-15 864/864 (sw), RPD-013.

1864-L Snow-15: Obv. 17

1864-L Snow-19: Rev. AJ

The repunching is very minor and only on the lower left edges of the digits. The 1 is slightly to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Right Edge (RE).

This variety was added to the list in 2010 and few have been reported since. This may not translate to a large premium. This variety was not represented in the Larry Steve collection. Not because of its rarity, but because it was believed to be too minor for inclusion.

The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,250. MS63RB should be \$700 to \$1,000. AU should be \$500 to \$700 and XF should be \$300 to \$500. Lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



1864-L Snow-15: Obv. 17, RPD-013

### Condition Census

1) MS63BN Ron Kudasik.  
est. 2-4 MS60-63  
est. 5-7 AU  
est. 8-10 XF  
est 11-14 F-VF  
est. 15-25 G-VG

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## **Do you have varieties to add to the condition census?**

### **Let us all know by contributing to the Fly-In Club Forum**

**[www.fly-inclub.org/newtalk](http://www.fly-inclub.org/newtalk)**

## 1864-L Snow-16 Bisecting die crack.



1864-L Snow-16: Obv. 18



1864-L Snow-16: Rev. AK

This variety is a bisecting die crack. Although die cracks are used to identify dies, they are not normally the object that identifies the die variety. In this case an exception is made due to the severity of the crack. It also may garner a premium by collectors, which is the basic rule for including a die listing.

There are numerous die states reported. It is assumed that Die Stage A<sup>1</sup> is without any cracks. This die stage would not be worth a premium.

Die Stage B: Crack from the rim at 6:00 to the portrait. On the reverse a die crack forms the rim at 7:00 into the wreath. Dies are rotated 5 deg. clockwise.

Die Stage C: A crack extends from the rim at 12:00 to just above Lady Liberty's ear. The center of the 6 is filled. On the reverse the die crack from Stage B extends back to the rim at 5:00.

Die Stage D: Die crack extends from the rims at 12:00 to 6:00. A small die cud forms by the ear.

As an obvious die flaw, this does get noticed and reported frequently. The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,200 to \$1,500. MS63RB should be \$900 to \$1,200. AU should be \$600 to \$900 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a moderate premium over the value of a regular coin.

### Condition Census

- 1) MS65RB. Fly-In census
  - 2) MS64RB Stage B. ANACS. Bob Lutzel; EERC (2010)
  - 3) MS64BN Stage C.
  - 4) MS64BN Stage B
  - 5) MS63RB PCGS. Stage C. Larry Steve.
- ANR "Classics" 7/03: 182

est. 6-14 MS60-63

est. 15-24 AU

est. 25-34 XF

est 35-50 F-VF

est. 50-75 G-VG

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<sup>1</sup> "Die State" describes a general state of the die, where "Die Stage" is a specifically described state of the die. Die stages are listed by A,B,C, etc.

## 1864-L Snow-17 8/8 (se), RPD-016.

### 1864-L Snow-17: Obv. 19

### 1864-L Snow-17: Rev. AM

The repunching is very minor and only on the right of the 8, inside the upper loop and below the base. The 1 is slightly to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Half (LH).

This is only moderately scarce. The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS65RB should be slight as the value for the grade overshadows the premium for the variety. However, as collecting trends change, a premium may develop. MS64RB should be \$1,200 to \$1,750. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,200. AU should be \$600 to \$800 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be as much as a double premium over the value of a regular coin.



### 1864-L Snow-12: Obv. 16, RPD-012

#### Condition Census

- 1) MS65RB NGC Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:183.
- 2) MS64RB PCGS. EERC (2011)
- 3) MS64BN PCGS Larry Steve; EERC (2008)
- 4) MS63RB  
est. 5-15 MS60-63  
est. 16-24 AU  
est. 25-35 XF  
est 36-45 F-VF  
est. 46-60 G-VG

## 1864-L Snow-18 1864/1864 (nw), RPD-016.

### 1864-L Snow-18: Obv. 20

### 1864-L Snow-18: Rev. AN

The repunching is minor and mostly on the upper loop of the 8, lower loop of the 6 with a hint of repunching on the 1 and 4. There are two date position marks in the denticles to the left and right of the date. The 1 is slightly to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Between (B).

Very few examples are reported, but this may not translate to a large premium.

The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,200 to \$1,500. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,200. AU should be \$600 to \$800 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



### 1864-L Snow-18: Obv. 20, RPD-016

#### Condition Census

- 1) MS64RB. Tom Reblin.  
est. 2-4 MS60-63  
est. 5-7 AU  
est. 8-10 XF  
est 11-14 F-VF  
est. 15-25 G-VG

1864-L Snow-19: Obv. 21

1864-L Snow-19: Rev. AO

The repunching is very minor and only on the top of the 1 and base of the upper loop of the 8 as well as the top of the lower loop of the 6 and under the horizontal bar of the 4. The 1 is far to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Between (B).

Very few examples are reported, but this may not translate to a large premium. This may change as demand increases.

The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,200 to \$1,500. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,200. AU should be \$600 to \$800 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



1864-L Snow-19: Obv. 21, RPD-017

#### Condition Census

1) MS63BN  
est. 2-7 MS60-63  
est. 8-12 AU  
est. 13-20 XF  
est. 21-29 F-VF  
est. 30-45 G-VG

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## Do you have something to say?

**Let us all know by contributing  
to the Fly-In Club Forum**

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**1864-L Snow-20 18/18 (n), RPD-018.**



**1864-L Snow-20: Obv. 22**



**1864-L Snow-20: Rev. AP**

The repunching is very minor and only on the top of the 1, in the upper loop of the 8. Date position lines are visible above the denticles to the left and right of the date. There is also a horizontal date position line that was supposed to line up the top of the date, but the center of the date was lined up with this line. The date is very high as a result. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Right Half (RH).

Very few examples are reported, but this may not translate to a large premium.

The premium should be moderate. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,100 to \$1,350. MS63RB should be \$800 to \$1,100. AU should be \$600 to \$800 and XF should be \$400 to \$600. Lower grades should be a slight premium over the value of a regular coin.



**1864-L Snow-12: Obv. 16, RPD-012**

**Condition Census**

- 1) MS64RD PCGS. PCGS Coinfacts.
- 2) MS64RB NGC. Larry Steve; ANR "Classics" 7/03:184.  
est. 3-8 MS60-63  
est. 9-15 AU  
est. 16-20 XF  
est 21-29 F-VF  
est. 30-45 G-VG

## 1864-L Snow-21 864/864 (w), RPD-019.

1864-L Snow-21: Obv. 3

1864-L Snow-21: Rev. AQ

This is the 1864-L PR3 obverse die paired with another reverse and used to strike business strikes. There is slight repunching on the left side of the 864. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Half (LH).

One example was reported by Bob Lutz. It is an interesting variety using a proof die.

The premiums are difficult to predict, but may be from slight to double for most grades.



1864-L Snow-21: Obv. 3, RPD-019

### Condition Census

est. 1-5 MS60-MS63

est. 6-10 F-AU

est 11-15 G-VG

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## Want to share your latest aquisition?

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## 1864-L Snow-22 Rusted Reverse Die.



1864-L Snow-22: Obv. 23



1864-L Snow-22: Rev. AR

The reverse shows extensive roughness on the devices due to die rust. The fields are polished, removing any roughness there. The reverse rotated during striking. The 1 is slightly to the right of the bust point. The left edge of the 1 in relation to the denticles is Left Half (LH).

Very few examples are reported.

The premium should be good. The MS65RB example carried too high a premium for the grade and it outweighed the premium for the variety. It eventually sold for no premium. Prices for MS64RB should be \$1,500 to \$2,000. MS63RB should be \$1,000 to \$1,500. AU should be \$800 to \$1,000 and XF should be \$600 to \$800. Lower grades should get a good premium, maybe a double premium over the value of a regular coin.

### Condition Census

1) MS65RB NGC. Mike Christensen; EERC (2017)  
est. 2-4 MS60-63  
est. 5-7 AU  
est. 8-10 XF  
est 11-14 F-VF  
est. 15-25 G-VG

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*Something New*  
*By Richard Snow*

## Delisted

**1858 Small Letters Snow-7**  
**Doubled UNIT, DDO-001. High Leaves.**



*1858 SL S7 is a Large Letter!*

The phrase “Submitted long ago and none have been seen since” should have been a warning. Doug Wright recently realized why this 1858 Small Letter variety was so elusive..

### It’s a Large Letter!

Specifically, it is 1858 LL Obv 7 which is found on the 1858 LL S6 when paired with the Low Leaves reverse and 1858 LL S8 when paired with the High Leaves reverse.

### *New Listing*

## 1860 Rounded Bust



**S8 1860 T2, 1/1 (s).**

### **S8 1860 T2, 1/1 (s).**

*Obv. 11: (B) Slight repunching visible under the flag of the 1. Extra outlines on many letters of the legend. Most visible on the U, O and C.*  
*Rev. S: Olive leaf and shield points are well away from the denticles. Heavy die file marks extending from the olive leaves at 7:00 and the arrow knock.*

*Attributed to: Eugene Bruder*

Although the repunching is fairly minor, it should be visible on all grades. {63}

# 1859 Shield Reverse



**1859 Shield Reverse, Non-proof. J-228, P-272.**

This is an interesting transitional issue with the exact design as the 1860 Pointed bust issue. The design change was requested by Mint Director Snowden. In a letter dated December 13, 1859 to Treasury Secretary Howell Cobb he details his reason:

*A modification of the reverse of the cent is desirable. I propose to introduce the shield upon the reverse. This will give it a more National character; and be a decided improvement upon the present coin. I have enclosed a few specimen pieces I have caused to be struck."*

A few proofs were struck. Based on the few survivors seen, I estimate between 10 and 20 proofs were struck. These were likely struck as a pattern issue for Secretary Cobb and others. Apparently, Secretary Cobb gave the change his approval, as 1000 additional coins were struck in a regular circulation strike format. No authorizing legislation was needed for this design change.

Nearly the entire mintage survives in high grade, indicating that these were not released into circulation. Perhaps they were held back as trading material for the Mint. It is possible that a dealer at the time paid the face value (\$10) and bought the entire mintage. The date of the initial release of these coins to collectors is unknown.

There is confusion as to the status of this coin as a pattern or regular issue. In Mint Director Snowden's *Mint Manual of Coin of All Nations*, published in 1860, he called these coins patterns:

*Near the close of the year (1859) another pattern cent was struck. This is the same as the cent of the year 1860.*

Dealers throughout the years have tried to get this issue listed as part of the regular series. The 1957 edition of the *Standard Catalogue of U.S. Coins* listed this as a regular issue. That catalog went out of print in 1959, supplanted in popularity with *The Guide Book of United States Coins*, the "Red Book." This catalog did not list it as a regular issue.

In *Walter Breen's Complete Encyclopedia of United States and Colonial Coins*, he called them a prototype, but recognized them as being an interesting adjunct to the regular series.

In 2014, Q. David Bowers wrote positively about the 1859 shield reverse being considered a regular issue, pointing out that if it was a pattern then why the unusually high mintage and circulation strike format? Collectors tend to agree and have added this coin to their basic collection.

Copper examples, listed as J-229, P-273 are not currently known. The example listed in Stack's 65th Anniversary Sale, 10/2000:1578 was listed as J-229, but described as copper-nickel.

# 1859 Shield Reverse

## PROOF DIES

Mintage: Est . 10-20

Number of dies observed:

2 obverse, 2 reverse. (Avg.: 10-20 per var.)



**Obv. 2: (B)** Minute die line in denticles above the first A in AMERICA. Die striations from 10:30 to 3:30. These are sometimes faint. Same die as PR2.



**Rev. Type of 1860-B.** Die striations from 11:00 to 5:00. The die is slightly convex, making the the reverse of the coin concave.



**Obv. 3: (LH)** The date position is similar to the non-proof pieces. This lacks the extra outlines on the final S in STATES and O in OF. No extra outlines on the feathers.



**Rev. Type of 1860-C.** The dies are a bit overpolished around the upper wreath. Denticles are thinner on the right side compared to the left.

# 1859 Shield Reverse

The proof is much rarer than the non-proof version. Many of non-proof examples have been graded as proof. The die diagnostics should tell them apart. The shield on the proofs is always fully struck.

The estimated mintage is based on attributing examples as proof and not relying on the grading service populations.

Confirmed examples:

- 1) PR65 PCGS. EERC 2018
- 2) PR65 PCGS. Stack's Bowers 3/14:6136. Dies 3-C.
- 3) PR65 PCGS
- 4) PR64 PCGS Heritage 2/13:4687
- 5) PR64 PCGS Heritage 11/07:61457
- 6) PR64 PCGS EERC
- 7) PR63 PCGS EERC
- 8) PR63 PCGS Dies 3-C.
- 9) PR62 PCGS Heritage 1/17:11809
- 10) Proof cleaned. Stacks Bowers 11/12:5207

## MAJOR VARIETIES

Mintage (est.): 1,000

Number of obverse dies: 1

Average coins per dies: 1,000



*1859 Shield Non-proof. Extra outlines.*



*1859 Shield Non-proof. Shield weakness.*



*1859 Shield Non-proof. Date area*

*Obv. 10: (LH) Small die line in denticles to the left of the 1. Die lies extend from the top of the 9 to the lower hair curl.*

*Rev. Type of 1860-A. Olive leaf and shield points away from denticles. Shield typically weak.*

The non-proof examples are all struck from the same dies and the latest examples struck show moderate die wear. Some examples have been graded as Proof in the past. An estimated 1,000 struck and most survived without entering circulation.

# 1880



## S16 1880, 2nd 8/8 (n), 0/0 (s), Broken 880.

*Obv. 20: (B) Repunching visible on the top of the second 8 and base of the 0. One of the impressions was with a digit punch broken at the base of the 880.*

*Rev. R: Shield points connected to the denticles. Olive leaf away.*

*Attributed to: Jamie Levy*

Interesting with the broken digit punch. {65RB}

S16 1880, 2nd 8/8 (n), 0/0 (s), Broken 880.

# 1883

## S19 1883, 83/83 (s).

*Obv. 24 (RH) Light repunching under the upper loops of the 83. Broken digit punch looks like additional repunching above the 3.*

*Rev. W: Olive leaf and shield points connected to the denticles.*

*Attributed to: Bruce Burnham*

The discovery coin shows an outline on the base of the 3. It could be damage to that coin, or additional repunching. A second example is needed to confirm. {64RB}



S19 1883, 83/83 (s).

## S20 1883, 3/3 (n).

*Obv. 25 (LH) Bold repunching visible on the outside of the lower loop of the 3.*

*Rev. X: Olive leaf firmly connected to the denticles. Shield points slightly connected to the denticles. Die crack from the rim at 11:30 along the top of the shield.*

*Attributed to: Ed Nathanson*

Very similar to PR1 and S5. Check date positions. {63BN}



S20 1883, 3/3 (n).

# 1884



*S11 1884, Star on Shield.*

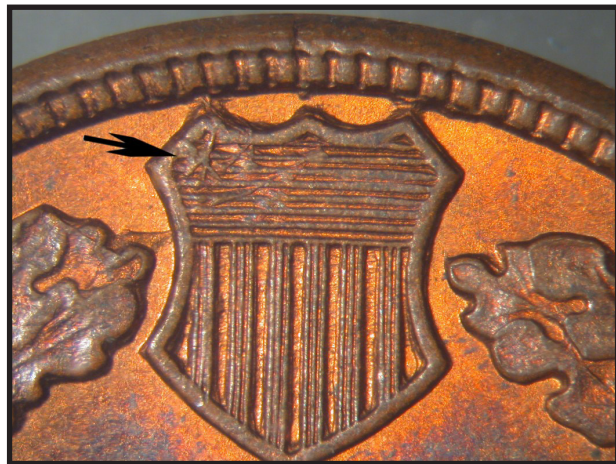
## **S11 1884, Star on Shield.**

**Obv. 15: (RH)** Date slightly to the right of the bust point. The portrait is extremely rough.

**Rev. J:** Shield points and olive leaves are firmly connected to the denticles. There are some die lines in the upper half of the shield. Some of these make the shape of a star. A die line joins the shield and the left wreath.

*Attributed to: Daniel Elzinga*

The die lines on the reverse are very interesting. This is a very rare and popular variety. See S1 for the Star on Shield reverse die paired with another obverse with an MPD. The date position on S1 has the 1 digit directly under the bust point, where on this die, the 1 is slightly to the right of the tip of the bust point. {64BN}



*S11 1884, Star on Shield.*



*S11 1884, Date area.*

# 1896



S30 1896, 6/6 (n), 6/6 (s).

## S30 1896, 6/6 (n), 6/6 (s).

*Obv. 34: (RE) Repunching visible above the lower loop as well as inside the lower loop. Die polish line from the denticles below the 8 to the base of the 1.*

*Rev. AD: Right shield point and olive leaf just connected to the denticles. Left shield point just away.*

*Attributed to: David Killough*

The repunching inside the lower loop of the 6 is very wide. The die polish line under the date may not be on all examples. {63BN}



S31 1896, 18/18 (n).

## S31 1896, 18/18 (n).

*Obv. 35: (LE) Repunching visible below the flag of the 1 and in the upper loop of the 8.*

*Rev. AE: Shield points and olive leaf connected to the denticles.*

*Attributed to: Ed Nathanson*

Similar to S15. Compare date positions. {50}

# 1906



S66 1906, 6/6 (s).

## S66 1906, 6/6 (s).

*Obv. 67: (RH) Minor repunching inside the lower loop of the 6.*

*Rev. BQ: Left shield point and olive leaf well away from the denticles. Right shield point just away.*

*Attributed to: Eugene Bruder*

This may be hard to spot on lower grade examples. {65RB}

# 1907



S68 1907, 7 in Denticles.

## S68 1907, 7 in Denticles.

*Obv. 70: (B) The top of a 7 digit is visible above the denticles between the 0 and 7.*

*Rev. BM: Right shield point and olive leaf are well away from the denticles. Radial die cracks from the rim to the wreath at 2:00, 4:00 and 8:00.*

*Attributed to: Jack Beymer*

The 7 is very bold. Similar to S30, but bolder. Compare date positions. {64BN}

# 1908

★★



*S18 1908, 1/1 (s), 08/08 (s).*

## **S18 1908, 1/1 (s), 08/08 (s).**

*Obv. 20: (RH) Strong repunching visible inside the 0 and lower loop of the 8.*

*Rev. T: Shield points just connected to the denticles. Olive leaf away.*

*Attributed to: Harlan Berk*

The variety previously listed as S18 was found to be a duplicate of S6. {63BN}

★★



*S19 1908, 108/908 (nw).*

## **S19 1908, 908/908 (nw).**

*Obv. 34: (RH) Repunching visible in the lower right of the 908. The initial punching is very rough looking.*

*Rev. AG: Shield points and olive leaf connected to the denticles.*

*Attributed to: David Killough*

Date punched very close to the denticles, deforming them under the 1. The variety listed as S19 in Snow 2014 was found to be a duplicate of S4. {50}

★



*S20 1908, 1908 in denticles.*

## **S20 1908, 1908 in denticles.**

*Obv. 22: (LH) The top of an 8 is visible above the denticles between the 0 and 8. The top of a 0 is visible three-fourths the way up the denticles just to the left of the 0. The tops of a 1 and 9 are visible one-half way up the denticles below the 1 & 9.*

*Rev. V: Olive leaf away from denticles. Shield points connected.*

The top of the 8 misplaced digit extends slightly into the field. The digits under the 9 and 0 rather minor and look like die lines. This seems to be scarce. {15}



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